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alternating peaks and troughs and a second band-like element having alternating peaks and troughs, the first and second band-like elements adjacent one another, and

a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end,

the first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the first undulating band-like element and troughs on the second undulating band-like element, first interconnecting elements which are adjacent one another connected to each other via a first path along the first band-like element, the first path having a first length, and via a second path along the second band-like element, the second path having a second length, wherein the first path length is different from the second path length.

Please add new claim 53 as follows:

--53.(New) The stent of claim 50 wherein the first path length is longer than the second path length.--

REMARKS

This supplemental amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 31, 2000. Applicant has amended claims 39-41, 45-47 and 50 to improve the readability of the claims. The amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. New claim 53 has been added. New claim 53 is supported by Fig. 2 as filed. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

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CONCLUSION

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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39.(Amended) [The stent of claim 1,] A stent comprising:
a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs,
the plurality of undulating band-like elements including at least two interconnected, non-abutting
undulating band-like elements located at a proximal end of the stent and at least two
interconnected, non-abutting undulating band-like elements located at a distal end of the stent,
the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like
element, [having alternating first peaks and first troughs, the first peaks longitudinally aligned
with one another and the first troughs longitudinally aligned with one another,] a second
undulating band-like element [having alternating second peaks and second troughs, the second
peaks longitudinally aligned with one another and the second troughs longitudinally aligned with
one another] and a third undulating band-like element, [having alternating third peaks and third
troughs, the third peaks longitudinally aligned with one another and the third troughs
longitudinally aligned with one another] the second undulating band-like element disposed
between the first and third undulating band-like elements, and
a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements
which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end
which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements and
second interconnecting elements, [each first interconnecting element having a first end and a
second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end,
each second interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end
circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end,]

the first interconnecting elements extending between [first] peaks on the first undulating
band-like element and [second] troughs on the second undulating band-like element,

the second interconnecting elements extending between [second] peaks on the second
undulating band-like element and [third] troughs on the third undulating band-like element,

wherein the number of [first] peaks of the first undulating band-like element separating
circumferentially adjacent first interconnecting elements is less than the number of [second]
peaks of the second undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent second
interconnecting elements.

40.(Amended) The stent of claim 39, the plurality of undulating band-like elements
further comprising a fourth band-like element having alternating [fourth] peaks and [fourth]
troughs,

the plurality of interconnecting elements further comprising third interconnecting
elements extending between [third] peaks on the third undulating band-like element and [fourth]
troughs on the fourth undulating band-like element,

wherein each second interconnecting element is separated from the third
interconnecting element nearest to it by a single [third] peak of the third undulating band-like
element and a single [third] trough of the third undulating band-like element.

41.(Amended) The stent of claim 40 where one third interconnecting element extends
from every third [third] peak of the third undulating band-like element.

45.(Amended) The stent of claim 40 wherein the first undulating band-like element is

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characterized by a first amplitude and the second undulating band-like element is characterized by a second amplitude, the first amplitude greater than the second amplitude.

46.(Amended) [The stent of claim 1,] A stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs,
the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a proximal undulating band-like element of a single first wavelength and single first amplitude having alternating [first] peaks and [first] troughs, an intermediate undulating band-like element of a single second wavelength and single second amplitude having alternating [second] peaks and [second] troughs, and a distal undulating band-like element of a single third wavelength and single third amplitude having alternating [third] peaks and [third] troughs, the intermediate undulating band-like element disposed between the proximal and distal undulating band-like elements, and
a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements and second interconnecting elements, [each first interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end, each second interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end,]

the first interconnecting elements extending between [first] peaks on the proximal undulating band-like element and [second] troughs on the intermediate undulating band-like element,

the second interconnecting elements extending between [second] peaks on the intermediate undulating band-like element and [third] troughs on the distal undulating band-like element,

wherein the first ends of the first interconnecting elements extend from every third [first] peak of the proximal undulating band-like element and the second ends of the second interconnecting elements extend from every third [third] trough of the intermediate undulating band-like element.

47.(Amended) The stent of claim 46 wherein the plurality of undulating band-like elements further comprises a second distal undulating band-like element having alternating [fourth] peaks and [fourth] troughs, the second distal undulating band-like element distal to the distal undulating band-like element,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including third interconnecting elements extending between [third] peaks on the distal undulating band-like element and [fourth] troughs on the second distal undulating band-like element,

wherein each second interconnecting element is separated from the third interconnecting element nearest to it by a single [third] peak and a [single] third trough of the distal undulating band-like element.

50.(Amended) [The stent of claim 1,] A stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs,
the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first band-like element having

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alternating [first] peaks and [first] troughs and a second band-like element having alternating [second] peaks and [second] troughs, the first and second band-like elements adjacent one another, and

a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end.

[the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements, each first interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first end circumferentially and longitudinally displaced from the second end,]

the first interconnecting elements extending between [first] peaks on the first undulating band-like element and [second] troughs on the second undulating band-like element, first interconnecting elements which are adjacent one another connected to each other via a first path along the first band-like element, the first path having a first length, and via a second path along the second band-like element, the second path having a second length, wherein the first path length is different from the second path length.

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